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Administration Speaks With Many Voices

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WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Carter is having his usual troubles making the administration speak with one voice on a given subject.

An recent announcement that Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal will head the Economic Policy Group that will meet three times a week at the White House is a reflection of the Carter's growing annoyance with the free-wheeling comments from other advisors on the economic outlook.

From week to week, the public is treated to various assessment of the picture from more inflation to no recession in sight, or maybe a slight recession.

Press Secretary Jody Powell insisted that the designation of Blumenthal as the chief economic spokesman is not a put-down for Chief inflation fighter Alfred Kahn. From time to time, White House aides have cringed at Kahn's outspoken frank economic prophecies when they undoubtedly would have liked a little more sugar coating. Kahn is articulate, amusing and not afraid to revise an opinion.

It is not the first time Carter's laissez faire approach to his top-level staff has caused him some grief. He finally laid down the law that on

foreign policy matters, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance was the voice of Carter for diplomacy, not national security affairs adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski.

More recently, the administration has been turning the other cheek on recurring reports that CIA director Stansfield Turner has deemed questionable certain aspects of verifying the strategic arms limitation agreement. Turner's position is that he does not make political and policy assessments. That gets him off the hook, temporarily at least.

In an earlier period, presidential assistant Midge Costanza was being encouraged to do her own thing. She was designated as Carter's

public liaison staffer, and the public indeed did come to call, picking up the chips the president had passed out during his campaigning days.

But soon after he got into the White House, Carter and his top aides decided that Costanza was not on the same wave length. The coup de grace occurred when image maker Gerald Rafshoon decided that she should not be allowed to appear on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" program as a representative of the White House. She resigned shortly afterwards. Afterwards.

Bella Abzug was fired as head of the President's Advisory Committee on Women because her panel took a broad view of women's affairs to cover most of the issues of the day, including Carter's budgeting for defense versus social problems. The president replaced her with Lynda Bird Johnson Robb, wife of the lieutenant governor of Virginia and daughter of Lyndon B. Johnson, on grounds that she would represent a "typical" housewife's viewpoint.

Probably the most outspoken and the most difficult for Carter to muzzle or corral is U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, who has his own opinions and does not mind expressing them.

From time to time, it is apparent, though the White House won't admit it, Carter has tried to bring Young into line and has toned him down.

Young's views on "political prisoners," likening the death penalty of John Spenkelin to the Ayatollah Khomeini's executions run counter to Carter's opinions. His view that the elections in Rhodesia were not fair also may come in conflict with Carter's defending on whether the president decides to lift sanctions against that African nation.

But clearly Young is an unguided missile, and all Carter can do about it is dissociate himself from the U.N. diplomat's positions from time to time.